

REMARKS

A telephonic interview was conducted on July 2, 2004. Applicants' attorney wish to thank the Examiner for his time and favorable consideration.

Applicants amended claim 1 to describe the present invention with more specificity. The support can be found in claim 5, which is now canceled. Claims 17 is canceled. Claim 24 has been amended to delete the "optional" language.

No new matter is added. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Currently, Claims 1-4, 18-19, 24-25 and 30 are pending. No additional claims fee is believed due.

REJECTIONS

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103 over US 5,668,102

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 17-19, 24, 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over US 5,668,102 to Severns et al. (hereinafter "Severns") for reasons of record in the prior Office Action. The Examiner states that the reference discloses biodegradable rinse-added fabric softeners with improved perfume longevity. Specifically, the Examiner points to Severns' disclosure of fabric softener compositions containing glycol ethers. The Examiner acknowledges that the reference does not disclose all of the steps recited in the claims with sufficient specificity to constitute anticipation, but the Examiner suggests that it is commonly done in a home laundry process.

Applicants point out that there is no teaching or suggestion in Severns or in common home laundering process of recovering a lipophilic cleaning fluid, such as the presently claimed step (e). Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in Severns of using chemically different fluids in separate steps of a laundering process.

Based on the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103 over GB 1,549,180

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 17-19, 24, 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over GB1,549,180 (hereinafter "GB '180"). The Examiner states that GB '180 discloses softening compositions for use in the final rinse cycle of a laundering process and the composition containing an emulsion of predominantly linear siloxane which may be wholly or partially fluorinated and may have cationic groups. The Examiner acknowledges that the reference does not disclose all of the steps recited in the claims with sufficient specificity to constitute anticipation, but

the Examiner suggests that it is commonly done in a laundry process to wash with water and surfactants, remove water and rinse with a perfumed softening composition.

Applicants point out that there is no teaching or suggestion in GB '180 or in common home laundering process of recovering a lipophilic cleaning fluid, such as the presently claimed step (e). Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion in GB '180 of using chemically different fluids in separate steps of a laundering process

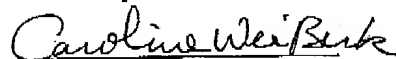
Based on the forgoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the above represents an earnest effort to place the present application in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
For: Noyes et al.



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